**Irregularities in disposal of scrap in Railways**

†1206. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of gross irregularities in transportation of goods and disposing of scrap in Railways;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to deal with the evasion of revenue going on at large scale; and

(c) the extent of amount of revenue evasion detected by Government till October, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. However, certain irregularities involving wrong classification and overloading in transportation of goods and involving accountal in disposal of scrap have been detected by the vigilance.

(b) There is no large scale evasion of revenue. However, with a view to deal with the same, intensive preventive checks are being organized by Railways to detect cases of wrong classification and overloading in the area of transportation of goods. In addition to existing mechanical weighbridges, electronic-in motion weighbridges have been installed at various strategic locations of facilitate checking of rakes, while in motion, without causing detentions. In the area of scrap disposal, intensive checks are being carried out to detect incidences of evasion of revenue and to curb the malpractices. To strengthen the system of accountal of scrap, electronic weighbridges have been provided at store depots and sheds from where scrap material is disposed off. In addition to above, accountal of rail and the permanent way material is being computerized.

(c) There is no revenue evasion as such. However, Railways have detected irregularities in the matter of wrong classification and overloading in transportation of goods amounting to Rs. 33.6 crores during the period from January, 2003 to October, 2003. In the area of scrap disposal, accountal irregularities amounting to Rs. 27.4 crores during the period from January, 2003 to October, 2003 have been detected.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.